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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Akira KATO et al.

International Application No.: PCT/JP2004/011518

Application No.: NEW

Art Unit: N/A

Filed: December 30, 2005

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
PRODUCING ULTRAFINE DRUG  
PARTICLES

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS Assignment Recordation Services  
Director of the US Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

This amendment includes:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 10 of this paper.